

PLACER COUNTY'S STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAM





Stormwater Compliance for Automotive Businesses



Auto Repair and Maintenance



Auto Body Repair and Painting



Commercial Auto Washing and Detailing



Equipment Rental



Sales Lots

The **sanitary sewer system** collects and treats wastewater prior to releasing it back into the environment.

The **storm drainage system**, the drains found in streets and parking lots, as well as gutters and roadside ditches, drains directly to local waterways with



drains directly to local waterways with **no treatment**.

What every owner or manager should know...

Automotive related business owners, managers, and employees should be aware that the discharge of pollutants from their businesses' activities into the storm drainage system, or into surrounding water bodies, is prohibited by local ordinance and state and federal law. Such discharges can result in severe penalties. Typical pollutants generated by automotive businesses include wastewater from car washing, motor oil, brake dust, sanding waste, filler residue, paints, thinners, plating wastes, and other automotive fluids. It is your responsibility to keep pollutants from your business out of the storm drainage system and local waterways. Local sewer service providers may allow discharge of wastes to the sewer system with an appropriate permit.

The Basics

Stormwater regulations include two basic requirements:

- Only rain water may be discharged to a storm drain. It is illegal as well as harmful to the environment to discharge wastes, wash water, or materials of any kind to the storm drain. This includes solid and liquid wastes from car washing, degreasing, sanding, painting, leaking vehicles, and parts cleaning.
- Minimize the contact of rainfall and runoff with pollutant sources. Do this by maintaining a clean facility, keeping materials covered, and managing wastes responsibly.

Education and Training

Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on stormwater compliance, personal safety, chemical management, and proper methods for handling and disposing of hazardous waste. Ensure that all employees understand and utilize the appropriate disposal methods for all types of wastes and wastewater. Post signs and mark storm drains, floor drains, and plumbing fixtures to remind employees of the importance of using proper disposal methods.

Materials Storage

Appropriate storage protects your business from hazardous spills.

- Store hazardous materials and wastes under cover and with secondary containment to prevent spills or leaks from reaching the storm drain system or sanitary sewer.
- ♦ Keep dumpster lids closed and keep lids on waste containers.
- ♦ Keep storage areas clean and dry. Conduct regular inspections to detect any leaks and spills immediately.
- Store batteries securely to avoid breakage and spills. Shelving should be secured to the wall. Store used batteries indoors in plastic trays to contain potential leaks. Recycle old batteries.

Keeping a Clean Shop

Good housekeeping practices minimize liability, reduce costs, and make it easier to detect spills and potential problems.

- Never hose down or pressure wash work areas unless the resulting wash water is contained, treated, and disposed of properly.
- ♦ Sweep or vacuum the shop floor frequently. Pick up sweepings and dispose of them in a trash receptacle. Use mopping as an alternative to hosing down work areas. Mop water must be disposed of properly. It is illegal to discharge the mop water to the parking lot, street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Keep parking lots clean in order to prevent mobilization of oils, residues, and debris by subsequent rainfall.
- Residue from the sanding of fillers is a common auto body shop pollutant – it should be collected and disposed of properly.
- Collect all metal filings, dust, and paint chips from grinding, shaving, and sanding, and dispose of the waste properly.
- Use drip pans under leaking vehicles to capture fluids.
- Keep fully stocked spill kits available at all times and make sure that employees know when and how to use them.

Car Washing

If car washing is a central activity of your business, the following practices must be followed:



- Since commercial vehicle washing discharges cannot be discharged to the storm drain, you must construct a wash pad that drains to the sanitary sewer. The pad shall be covered with a roof and surrounding grades sloped away from the wash area, or the wash area bermed, to prevent additional drainage, such as stormwater runoff, from entering the sanitary sewer.
- Treat and recycle wash water to minimize water use and sanitary sewer charges.
- Install an oil/grit separator if required by the sewer agency or building department.

If car washing is an occasional activity of your business, the following practices should be followed:

- Avoid washing vehicles on site and take vehicles to a commercial car wash that is properly connected to the sanitary sewer, or dry cloth the vehicles.
- If car washing is provided as a courtesy benefit to your customers, consider providing a voucher for a properly equipped commercial car wash instead.



Additional practices for fleets and automobile sales lots:

- Fleet and sales lot owners must be careful with solvents or cleaners used to remove protective coatings from new cars. Discharges of these materials to the storm drain is never allowed.
- Employees or contractors that utilize cleaning agents on fleets or cars in sales lots must collect the resulting wastewater and discharge it to the sanitary sewer. It is not permissible to allow the water to evaporate, as the pollutants are simply left behind and will be mobilized by subsequent rainfall.

Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Hazardous wastes may never be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

All hazardous materials and hazardous wastes must be stored, used, and disposed of according to federal, state, and local laws, including, but not limited to, fire codes, hazardous materials and waste laws, and zoning restrictions. Contact the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill and Material Recovery Facility for more details.

Parts Cleaning and Radiator Flushing

- Use a licensed service to haul and recycle or dispose of wastes.
- Designate specific areas or service bays for engine parts or radiator cleaning. Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when working with solvents. Keep sinks and tanks covered when not in use.
- Never discharge cleaning solutions or wastewater from steam cleaning or engine / parts cleaning onto the ground or into a street, gutter, or storm drain.

Changing Oil and Other Fluids

Change vehicle fluids indoors and only on floors constructed of non-porous materials, or only in areas where spills can be captured and disposed of properly. Avoid working over asphalt and dirt surfaces that absorb vehicle fluids.



- If vehicle fluids must be removed outdoors, always use a drip pan.
- Transfer fluids drained from vehicles to a designated waste storage area as soon as possible. Drain pans and other open containers of fluids should not be left unattended.
- Never pour vehicle fluids or other hazardous wastes into storm drains, sewers, or into dumpsters where they could leak out. These substances should be kept in designated waste storage containers until recycled or disposed of properly.

Contact Information

Placer County

Stormwater Information

• (530) 889-7500



• (530) 886-3000

Building Department

• (530) 889-3010

Environmental Health Services

• (530) 745-2300

Servicing Sanitary Sewer Agency

• Contact your local service provider

Hazardous Materials/Wastes Western Regional Sanitary Landfill and Materials Recovery Facility

• (916) 645-5230, ext. 2013

Visit our Web site:

http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtr.htm

